

What is claimed is:

1. A method for notifying a party of a traveler's estimated time of arrival, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a. providing a navigation unit to the traveler, the navigation unit comprising an input, an output, a wireless communication device and a global positioning systems module;
 - b. providing a service center, the service center comprising a means for sending and receiving communications to and from the wireless communication device, a server capable of generating a preferred route of travel for the traveler, the preferred route of travel comprising at least a plurality of points, and a traffic database capable of receiving current traffic information;
 - c. selecting a predetermined time and frequency of notifying the third party;
 - d. calculating an estimated time of arrival based upon a position of the traveler, a velocity of the traveler, a distance to be traveled, and a delay due to traffic; and
 - e. notifying a party of the estimated time of arrival.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of adding a delay due to weather conditions.
3. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of generating a confirmation message, wherein the confirmation message indicates that the party has been notified.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the time and frequency of notifying the party is based upon at least one criterion selected from the group consisting of maneuver points, instruction points, warning points, preparation points, confirmation points, a predetermined frequency, user defined points, geometric divisions of the route based upon distance, changes in time of travel, remaining time of travel and a predetermined appointment time.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the notification of the party is made by a means selected from the group consisting of cellular communications, textual paging, land-line telephone calls, facsimile transmissions, e-mails, and two-way radio communications.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of calculating the estimated time of arrival is accomplished with a Kalman filter.
7. A system for notifying a party of a traveler's estimated time of arrival, comprising:
 - a. a navigation unit, the navigation unit comprising:
 - i. a microcomputer;
 - ii. an input coupled to the microcomputer;
 - 10 iii. an output coupled to the microcomputer;
 - iv. a wireless communication device coupled to the microcomputer; and
 - v. a global positioning systems module coupled to the microcomputer;
 - b. a service center, the service center comprising:
 - i. a means for sending and receiving communications to and from the
 - 15 wireless communication device coupled to the server;
 - ii. a server capable of generating a preferred route of travel for the traveler, the preferred route of travel comprising at least a plurality of points; and
 - iii. a traffic database capable of receiving current traffic information;wherein a traveler selects a predetermined time and frequency of notifying the party;
20 further wherein the server calculates an estimated time of arrival based upon a position of the traveler, a velocity of the traveler, a distance to be traveled, and a delay due to traffic; and
wherein the server notifies the party of the estimated time of arrival.
8. The system of claim 7, wherein the server further generates a confirmation message,
25 wherein the confirmation message indicates that the party has been notified.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the predetermined time and frequency of notifying the party is based upon at least one criterion selected from the group consisting of maneuver points, instruction points, warning points, preparation points, confirmation points, a predetermined frequency, user defined points, geometric divisions of the route based upon distance, changes in time of travel, remaining time of travel and a predetermined appointment time.
10. The system of claim 9, wherein the notification of the party is made by a means selected from the group consisting of cellular communications, textual paging, land-line telephone calls, facsimile transmissions, e-mails, and two-way radio communications.
11. The system of claim 10, wherein the server calculates the estimated time of arrival by way of a Kalman filter.